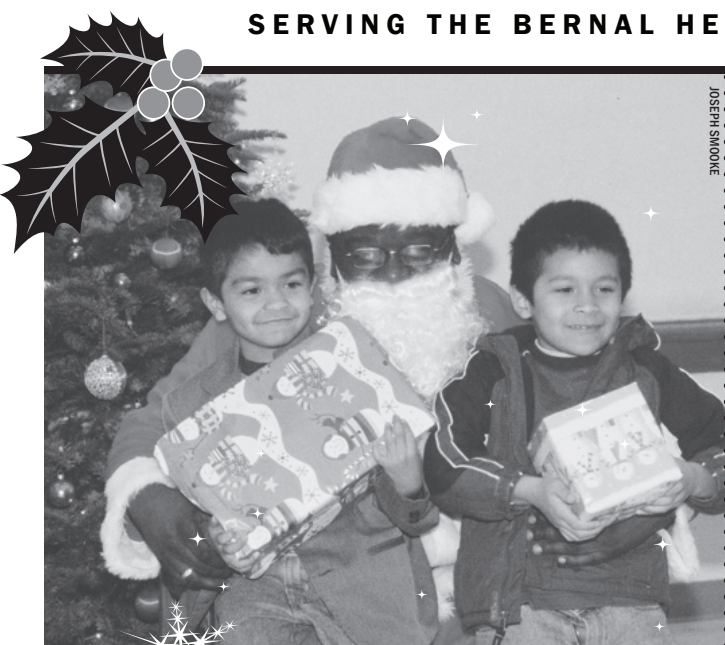


New Bernal Journal

December-January 2009 • Vol. 45 • Number 6

SERVING THE BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAN FRANCISCO SINCE 1964



JOSEPH SMOOKE

Happy Holidays at the BHNC!

JOIN US—OR VOLUNTEER—AT OUR
FESTIVE ANNUAL EVENTS

Toy Give-Away
December 16

for details, see page 4

Senior Star Program
November 24 - December 16

Senior Holiday Lunch
December 12

Hot Holiday Meals
December 22 & 23

for details, see page 5

The Struggle for St. Luke's— Past, Present & Future

By Bob Prentice

When Sutter Health, a network of hospitals in Northern California, took over St. Luke's Hospital in 2001, people were both relieved and worried—relieved because St. Luke's was on the verge of closure, so any chance of staying open was welcome; worried because there was widespread suspicion the reprieve was temporary and little more than a public relations move on the part of Sutter, which was under pressure for its labor practices and poor record on charity care. When California Pacific Medical Center (CP-

**An important victory, but the
battle to make St. Luke's a vital
community resource is not
over yet.**

MC), a group of hospitals in San Francisco that were also part of Sutter Health, announced an affiliation agreement with St. Luke's Hospital in 2005, it added to the puzzle, since CPMC was known for serving privately insured patients in the more affluent parts of town, while St. Luke's was losing money serving a much poorer, Medi-Cal based population in the southern portion of the city.

So it was no surprise when CPMC announced just over a year ago it was going to close acute (inpatient) care at St. Luke's, and our neighborhood would be left with an outpatient facility linked to a hospital on the other side of the city. However, not too long after that announcement, CPMC reversed itself and, in negotiations with the City, agreed to create a Blue Ribbon Panel to consider options for keeping St. Luke's open as a full-service hospital. The Blue Ribbon Panel, made up of representatives from community organizations, labor, business, academia, health care and local government, held its first meeting in March of this year. The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center was represented on the panel.

Saving St. Luke's Hospital

The Blue Ribbon Panel released its report on The Future of St. Luke's Hospital on August 25, 2008. Among its eleven recommendations, several were particularly noteworthy:

- CPMC should build a new acute care, community hospital on the St. Luke's campus;
- St. Luke's should be fully integrated into the broad mission, strategies and operations of the CPMC system;
- The size of the new hospital should be appropriate to the planned mix of services;
- The services provided at St. Luke's should include, but not be limited to, a Center of Excellence in gynecology and low-intervention obstetrics, medical/surgical (cardiology, respiratory care, etc.), emergency department, intensive care, urgent care, pediatrics, a Center of Excellence in senior health and skilled nursing beds to serve orthopedics, senior health and medical/surgical patients; and,
- St. Luke's should be a Center of Excellence in community health.

Other recommendations referred to the importance of primary care and health promotion; workforce retention; financial strategies to improve the viability of the hospital; regional approaches to assuring the adequacy of inpatient psychiatry, subacute services and the distribution of primary care; recruitment of culturally competent and diverse health care professionals; and, the location of the new hospital adjacent to the current building. (For the full report, see www.cpmcbeyondmedicine.com.)

At its meeting on September 25, 2008, the CPMC Board of Directors adopted the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel and authorized management to proceed with planning for their implementation.

This has been an extremely important victory for the people in the southern part of the city, especially after CPMC initially announced their plans to close acute care at St. Luke's Hospital. Of the eleven hospitals in San Francisco, only two—San Francisco General Hospital and St. Luke's—are South of Market. And, although the University of California, San Francisco plans to build a new hospital in the Mis-

continued on page 18

NBJ EN ESPAÑOL

2008: Elecciones con CLOUT

Por Joseph Smooke

Anticipando que un gran número de personas votarían en estas elecciones por la presidencia, muchas proposiciones lucharon para ser incluidas, creando una de las listas más largas de proposiciones locales y estatales de los últimos años. Estamos orgullosos de haber publicado en nuestro último número nuestra posición en varias de estas proposiciones. Para los activistas en Bernal Heights y en Excelsior, y para los líderes que trabajan con BHNC a través de nuestro colaborativo (llamado CLOUT) con Chinatown CDC y Community Housing Partnership, fue un tiempo confuso. Muchas de las personas con las que trabajamos priorizaron el trabajo para pasar la proposición B ya que la vivienda económica es un tema tan fundamental que ha pasado a ser aún más urgente en los últimos meses. Mientras que mucho dinero seguía siendo invertido en luchar estas proposiciones, encontramos que mucha gente naturalmente se distrajo por la cantidad de ataques ocurriendo a la vez. Muchos también se encontraron inmersos en las extremadamente importantes carreras para supervisores, porque literalmente los próximos cuatro años de valores y políticas progresivas en el ayuntamiento estaban en riesgo.

Mientras que trabajamos para cumplir nuestros plazos de entrega para este número del

continúa a página 10

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Bernal Heights
Neighborhood Center.
It is dedicated to providing the
people of Bernal Heights with their
community's news, ideas, issues,
and events which support the
center's mission:

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
works to preserve and enhance
the ethnic, cultural, and economic
diversity of Bernal Heights and
surrounding neighborhoods.

We promote community action to
build a just and equitable community
for all. BHNC focuses on the needs
of people with low and moderate
incomes.

- We work to accomplish our
mission by:
- Developing affordable housing
throughout San Francisco;
 - Providing linguistically and
culturally responsive services to
our community's most vulnerable
adults, seniors, youth, and their
families;
 - Developing leaders; organizing and
empowering our tenants, clients,
members, and allies to advocate
for their needs and for the needs of
the community.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we head into the holiday season and analyze how Election '08 will affect our lives, I encourage you to glance backward at the tremendous career of Bernal Heights resident, Tom Ammiano. As he moves from SF City Hall to Sacramento to join the State Assembly, we have to take time to honor this protégé of the late Supervisor Harvey Milk who has done so much to further not just gay rights, but social justice in its most comprehensive sense. Tom's work to support Bernal Heights and the work of BHNC as a unique convener, catalyst, organizer, service provider, and affordable housing developer has provided lasting benefit to Bernal Heights and the rest of the southeast neighborhoods of San Francisco.

Ammiano was first elected Supervisor fifteen years ago, and his greatest fame came from his nationally broadcast run for Mayor when the progressive community in 1999 staged a massive write-in campaign that put Ammiano into a run off with the powerful incumbent candidate, Willie Brown. Ammiano's amazing, although ultimately unsuccessful, underdog run for Mayor, combined with his leadership to bring about the return of district elections for Supervisors led to an incredible victory in 2000 of a progressive majority on the Board of Supervisors.

As a Supervisor, Ammiano wrote and passed pioneering legislation such as the Health Care Security Ordinance and the Domestic Partners Ordinance. He took on the tough issues of violence in the Mission and Bernal Heights and the lack of affordable housing citywide. Ammiano rolled up his sleeves and dug into the critical land use issues facing the Mission and Bernal Heights to make sure that local businesses and affordable housing have been considered and supported. When residents at Alemany public housing in Bernal Heights dedicated their new Computer Lab in 2007 to Supervisor Ammiano because he had successfully secured the funding that made the Computer Lab possible, Ammiano remarked that this was one of the proudest moments of his career as a Supervisor. Not one to sit back and relax, Tom has continued to be busy these past few months supporting land use controls on Bernal's south slope, the chance for locally owned businesses at the Goodman's site on Bayshore, and saving essential health services at St Luke's Hospital.

We thank Supervisor Ammiano for his commitment to social justice, for his humanity and effectiveness as a politician and as a community representative, and for his bravery for being an openly gay teacher, Board of Education member, mayoral candidate, and Supervisor. We wish Ammiano well as he continues his political career in Sacramento and we look forward to continuing to work with him especially on his core issues of affordable housing, equitable healthcare, environmental justice, and quality public education. There is no way BHNC or the Bernal

Heights community could have achieved nearly the amount it has in the past fifteen years without Ammiano's skilled advocacy in City Hall. Thank you, Tom!

A big thanks as well to our youth leaders, especially Victoria Kupu and Bianca Gonzalez, who led a March for Peace through the Excelsior District to remember those who have died recently much too young, see page 4 for more details. This march was one

of the most inspiring moments I have experienced in my nearly twelve years with BHNC, as was our showing as a community on November 6 at the Planning Commission: South Bernal and Alemany Public Housing residents and neighbors came together to advocate for land use controls. The Planning Commission supported the controls that now go before the Board of Supervisors.

As we head into the holiday season, let's keep in mind that there is so much to be thankful for. Despite a devastating economic situation, our work to provide for

those most in need is still being recognized, including grants from the Van Loben Sels Foundation for our gang prevention work, Wells Fargo for our housing development, Bank of America for our housing and youth development, and volunteer support from the Gap. New funders include the Mitchell Kapor Foundation supporting our civic engagement work, and the SH Cowell Foundation who, combined with Supervisor Sandoval, the



Bianca Gonzalez and Victoria Kupu, pictured above, are two dynamic youth leaders—Read about what they've brought to the community on page 4.

Mayor's Office of Housing, and Bank of America, have assured that our Excelsior Teen Center will stay permanently in its current location.

Here's wishing you all a very happy holidays and of course, happy reading!
—Joseph Smooke
Executive Director, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STOP PROPOSAL TO
CREATE MORE TRAFFIC
ON CORTLAND, PRECITA

Dear Editor:
Your October/November issue contains an article ("Sewer Tear Up on Cesar Chavez Brings Noise, Dust, and Opportunity") about proposed changes on Cesar Chavez. The SF Planning Department has come up with several proposals to change Cesar Chavez. All of the proposed changes currently include a plan to delete a traffic lane in each direction, and to add a bike lane. From the beginning of the planning process, many Cesar Chavez users and those concerned about increased traffic on nearby quiet streets, have attempted to work with the City and the C.C. Puede committee on alternatives that do not increase traffic and congestion. Our suggestions have all been politely ignored.

Cesar Chavez is already overcrowded with cars and busses. Eliminating a traffic lane will only make it more crowded and force cars off Cesar Chavez onto neighborhood streets. Cortland is the only other street besides Cesar Chavez that goes from Mission through to Bayshore,

and will likely get the bulk of the over-flow traffic if the lane-elimination on Cesar Chavez goes through. Other local traffic will likely flow onto Precita Ave. The same thing happened when the City eliminated a lane on San Jose-Guerrero 2 years ago.

Clearly, Cesar Chavez leaves much room for improvement. However, elimi-

Is eliminating a traffic lane
really the solution?

nating a traffic lane and sending more traffic onto Cortland and Precita is not the answer. A bike lane can be added on 26th Street as the current bike plan provides.

If you agree, please contact Project Manager Andres Power at the SF Planning Department and ask him to design a Cesar Chavez proposal that does not eliminate a traffic lane: Andres Power, SF Planning Department, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, S.F., CA 94103. Phone 415.558.6384. Fax 415.558.6426. Email Andres.Power@sfgov.org.

—Marc Zilversmit
Noe Valley

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BHNC PROGRAMS
DEVELOPMENT



We at BHNC would like to thank the following sponsors, without whom the twentieth anniversary of Fiesta on the Hill would not have been the smashing success that it was. Thank you, and we’ll see you on the Hill next year!

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BHNC PROGRAMS

YOUTH

RECENT EVENTS AT EXCELSIOR TEEN CENTER

ETC Youth A Movin’ and Shakin’

By Rachel Eborá

As a neighborhood center, BHNC has the privilege of working with people from all walks of life. Included in the diverse group of individuals that make the neighborhood center alive and thriving are the many youth who take part in the activities and programs offered by our Youth Services Department and through our very own Excelsior Teen Center (ETC).

Among the many youth who go to ETC are two dynamic leaders: Bianca Gonzalez and Victoria Kupu. Both Bianca and Victoria are involved in ETC's youth leadership team and both are responsible for organizing two successful events in October.

Mic Check!

Bianca’s interest in the arts and her commitment to the youth in Excelsior gave birth to Open Mic night at Excelsior Teen Center. Launched on October 17—the the first Open Mic night was attended by dozens of youth and adults alike. Herself an artist, Bianca opened up the stage to give guest performers time to “spit their piece,” sing, rap and express themselves through the spoken word. “I think this was a good event because it showed the teens had respect in the ETC and for their peers,” said Bianca. “I feel this brought new teens, with positive ideas, to the ETC.”

Complete with food and refreshments, Open Mic night at ETC proved to be a valuable avenue for youth creativity, ca-

maraderie and collaboration. Watch out for announcements for the next Open Mic night, hopefully happening regularly every third Friday of the month at the Excelsior Teen Center from 6-8 pm.

March Towards Peace

Victoria’s quiet resolve to organize a youth led community response to the increase in violence in the Excelsior District resulted in a successful march and speakout on October 24. Working with the SF Youth Commissioners from her district, as well as other organizations such as United Playaz, Coleman Advocates, Community Response Network, and the Boys and Girls Club of Excelsior District, Victoria marched with over 60 youth and adults through Mission Street to the Excelsior Playground. Chanting phrases through megaphones that affirm the power of youth and loudly accompanied by drum beats and the supportive honks and cheering of motorists and pedestrians alike, the group briefly stopped traffic as they took over half of the busy main thoroughfare. The culminating speakout at Excelsior Playground included guest speakers, spoken word artists from YouthSpeaks! and a solemn ceremony where Victoria and several other youth remembered their friends, family, and loved ones who have fallen victim to violence in the recent months.

As the year comes to a close, we at BHNC are proud to be the hub for all things great and small, and to be an or-



ganization that supports the efforts and leadership of youth like Victoria and Bianca in making our community better. Thank you Victoria and Bianca, and to all our youth! ■

The Excelsior Teen Center is open from 11am to 7pm every day and is located at 4468 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94112. Phone: 415-334-9919. Weekly programming for youth and other activities abound so please do



above left: Lourdes, Ashley and Victoria march for peace.
above: Ashley inspires observers on the march to Excelsior Playground.

Toy Drive Turns Twenty-one!

Annual Holiday Toy Give-Away Scheduled for December 16

On December 16, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center will host its Twenty-first Annual Holiday Toy Give-Away. Bring your children ages 2-12 years to visit Santa, enjoy holiday refreshments, and take home a holiday gift. Pictures with Santa are optional for a small fee. Pre-registration for the Toy Give-Away is required, which you can do starting November 4 through December 5 at:

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center 515 Cortland Avenue M-F from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm	Excelsior Teen Center 4468 Mission Street at Excelsior M-F from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
--	--

And, of course, the Annual Holiday Toy Give-Away relies on donations to give presents to eager children, so please support the Holiday Toy Drive! Donations of new unwrapped gifts can be left at BHNC’s Youth Programs. Please note we are not accepting stuffed animals this year.

If you want to know more about how you can support our holiday toy drive further, or if you have any questions about this beloved Neighborhood Center tradition, please contact Frederique Clermont at 206-2140 ext. 169. ■



Join us in making the holidays brighter for San Francisco kids and families.

Every year, Zephyr sponsors a holiday food and toy drive to benefit kids and families in need throughout our community. This year, more than ever, we invite you to participate by bringing unwrapped new toys and non-perishable foods to any of our offices, November through December. Working together for our community is a wonderful gift.

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BHNC PROGRAMS

SENIORS

STARS, CARS & CARE:

Extraordinary Holiday Events from BHNC's Senior Department

By Janine Hudak

The holiday season is here again, and the BHNC Senior Department has its calendar of activities in full swing. Check out the items below and consider taking a brief moment out of your busy schedule to help make a senior's holiday extra-special this year!

November 24 - December 16: “Senior Star” Program—Pick out a star in the BHNC Lobby and make the holiday wish of one of our homebound seniors come true! Each star represents the personal wish they submitted for the holiday. This is a lovely way to bring some holiday cheer and let those that cannot join us in person know they’ve been remembered. Please come to BHNC or check out www.bhnc.org to see the list of senior stars online. All you need is to do is pick a Star, purchase the gift indicated on it, and return that gift to the BHNC by December 16th.

Friday, December 12: Holiday Luncheon for Active Seniors—This meal includes homemade roasted turkey

with all of the fixings, lovingly prepared by the BHNC staff and volunteers. A highlight of the Active Senior Program at BHNC Senior Center and we serve over 100 seniors and disabled adults with this traditional holiday meal each year. We would greatly appreciate community members to volunteer to prepare or serve the meal. Lunch is served at 12 noon. Senior clients can make reservations with Roland at 206-2142.

December 22 and 23: Hot Holiday Meals—These meals, along with lots of holiday goodies and Senior Star gifts, will be delivered by volunteers to all of our homebound seniors. We need meal delivery volunteers to drop off a bit of holiday cheer to our clients, so if you want to be Kris Kringle for a day, please call Janine, Volunteer Coordinator, at 206-2140-x130 or email to volunteer@bhnc.org. ■

For more information on any of these events, please call Janine, Volunteer Coordinator, at 206-2140 x130 or email to volunteer@bhnc.org.

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Other Ways You Can Help!

- Make a United Way Donor Choice gift. Just fill in BHNC's code #928683 on the United Way pledge form.
- For federal workers, the Combined Federal Campaign is the program through which you designate your United Way gift.
- Multiply your gift with a matching contribution from your employer.
- Donate used items to our thrift store, Gifts on the Hill, 513 Cortland
- Donate resale items to Community Thrift Store, Valencia between 17th and 18th Streets, and designate BHNC (acct# 243) as the beneficiary.
- When you shop at Cole Hardware, Mission and 29th Street, tell them you want BHNC (acct# 515) to get 10% from your purchase.
- Consider including the BHNC in your estate planning. Call (415) 206-2140 x161 to discuss how.

Return to:
Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110

Word to the Wise

ADVICE ON SENIOR LIVING

Dear Karen,

My mother is 79, and has become increasingly forgetful over the past year or two. She can get disoriented in the neighborhood she's lived in for a long time, and sometimes seems anxious for no reason. I've tried asking her about all this, but she denies having any problems whatsoever. Is it too soon to think she may need help? And if she does need help, how can I get it for her?

Sincerely, Helen

Dear Helen,

If you have been noticing differences in your mother's behavior for the past year or two, such as forgetfulness, disorientation, and increased anxiety, she has probably been experiencing those symptoms for a much longer period and trying to cover. These symptoms can be very scary for seniors, as many have often seen their friends or family members go through similar experiences. Denial is an important coping mechanism for people with early stage memory loss, as they know that there is "something off," but it can be

difficult for them to pinpoint the exact problem, and they have a marked loss of personal perspective about it.

The behaviors you describe are consistent with some signs of dementia, described by the “National Institute on Aging as “a group of symptoms [...] caused by changes in brain

Dementia, reversible dementias, and resources for telling them apart.

function. Dementia symptoms may include asking the same questions repeatedly; becoming lost in familiar places; being unable to follow directions; being disoriented about time, people, and places; anxiety; and neglecting personal safety, hygiene, and nutrition."

Dementia is an “umbrella term” for a specific set of behaviors/ symptoms with a variety of causes such as Alzheimer’s, multi infarct dementia (small strokes), Parkinson’s, and many more. The term Alzheimer’s and dementia are often used interchangeably, but the first refers to the disease process/ cause and the latter encompasses a set of behaviors and functional limitations.

Many factors can cause symptoms that mimic Alzheimer’s disease. These factors are also known as “reversible dementias,” and can be cured with proper treatment. Some examples of reversible dementia are:

- **Depression:** People who are depressed feel intense sadness, and may seem tired, listless, and withdrawn.
- **Medications:** Older adults often take a number of medications, which may interact with each other and cause confusion.
- **Severe kidney or urinary tract infections:** Many seniors do not drink enough fluids, leading to infections which in turn can cause a decrease in cognitive functioning.
- **Poor eating habits:** Often, It may be hard for seniors to chew food or have a decrease in appetite, which contributes to poor nutrition or low blood sugar.
- **Heart or lung disease:** These problems can prevent the brain from getting enough oxygen.
- **Diseases of the thyroid or other glands:** Many glands affect the way people think and feel, which can cause changes in thought or mood.

Because your mother's behaviors are getting more pronounced, it is good to have her fully assessed by her primary care physician/PCP. For many seniors, they have had their same physician for many years, so the PCP can be a valuable ally in figuring out "what is going on" with your mother medically. One of the best ways to determine this is to have her physician refer her to a Memory Clinic for further evaluation. A number of memory clinics located throughout California focus on determining the cause or causes of your mother's symptoms and can recommend treatment. One of the closest clinics in San Francisco is located at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center and can be reached by phone at (415) 476-4800 or via the web at <http://memory.ucsf.edu/Clinic/UCSF.htm>. The UCSF Memory and Aging Center will "conduct an extensive neurological, neuropsychological, and nursing assessment lasting about three hours. Because memory loss and other related symptoms are often multi-factorial and complex, [...] a multidisciplinary and comprehensive evaluation is necessary for most patients."

By having your mother participate in this assessment, the multi disciplinary team can evaluate all her behaviors, symptoms and medical issues and establish a baseline of functioning. Many health insurance plans cover part or all of the cost of the assessment, but it is important to work with your PCP and insurance company to clarify coverage.

Just noticing the way that your mother has been functioning over the past two years is the first step in determining what is going on with her. Taking it to the next level and partnering with her physician is a powerful and effective tool in understanding the interplay between her physical functioning, changing behaviors, and medical history. There are many resources out there for seniors with dementia, so it's important to just get started. Remember: information, education, and awareness always equals personal power... ■

Email your questions to kgarrison@bhnc.org with the subject line “Word to the Wise.”

BHNC PROGRAMS
ORGANIZING

Goodman’s Site Update

By Joseph Smooke

Since April, 2008, when Home Depot made a very public exit from Bayshore Boulevard after securing their planning approvals and site permit (the permit developers receive just prior to the final Building permit that allows construction to start), BHNC, community leaders, and Supervisor Ammiano and his staff have been working hard to make sure we don’t get stuck in the same quagmire that led to animosity between the Bayview and Bernal Heights neighborhoods for so many years while Home Depot exploited our being stuck for their own gains.

The most promising move was by Supervisor Ammiano to establish a small committee of Bernal Heights representatives (Larry Cruz and Joseph Smooke), Bayview representatives (Michael Hamman and Angelo King), Supervisor Ammiano and his aid Pilar, Jon Lau from Supervisor Maxwell’s office, representation from the Goodman’s family (owner of the site in question), and the Mayor’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development (MOEWD). This committee met several times to explore development possibilities and to reconcile the goals of Bayview, Bernal, and the site’s owners.

Of great importance was the realization at the top of the first meeting that both Bayview and Bernal have similar goals for this site. These include: (1) prioritization for locally owned business; (2) priority for local hiring for both the construction and ongoing jobs with whatever business(es) locate there; (3) establishing a home improvement and green/ sustainable building materials zone; (4) ensur-

ing accommodation of Day Laborers who are likely to congregate at such a zone; (5) respecting the City’s designation of Bayshore as a Transit Preferential Street while at the same time acknowledging that Bayshore naturally supports auto-oriented economic activity. We all also agreed that this site should be developed—that this site should be generating economic activity and employment opportunities.

The Goodman family has been in negotiations with Lowe’s, which represents yet another Big Box approach to developing this site. BHNC has been working with a commercial developer called Union Property Capital to create an alternative development proposal. This alternative proposal contemplates multiple locally owned businesses rather than a single big box. There is significant interest in our development proposal from the Redevelopment Agency, Supervisor Maxwell’s office, MOEWD, Planning, Supervisor Ammiano’s office, Bayview leaders, Bernal leaders, and the Goodman family. The downward turn in the economy, however, has made capital inaccessible: therefore, negotiations with Lowe’s and our alternative proposal have both stalled.

Supervisor Duffy has been involved as well working with Supervisors Ammiano and Maxwell to encourage a green/ sustainable home improvement zone. While there has been a significant amount of work done, all discussions have slowed pending capital being available. ■

For further information, please contact Joseph Smooke at BHNC at jsmooke@bhnc.org.

South Slope Study Imminent

By Melinda Mazzetti

More than ten years after their first request, the residents of South Bernal stand on the brink of getting approval for a study of Bernal’s south slope. Legislation, which would call for interim controls on development until the city can assess the conditions and form a comprehensive plan for building on this very steep slope, comes before the Planning Commission for a hearing on November 6, 2008. Following the commission’s hoped-for approval, the legislation will proceed to another hearing before the Board of Supervisors’ Land Use Committee on November 17, 2008.

In 1998, residents of south Bernal Heights formed an advocacy group, the South Bernal Action Alliance (SBAA), and began asking the Planning Department to assess the overall impact of several proposed housing developments on the neighborhood. There were developers asking for approval for 66 units behind the Farmers’ Market, 22 townhouses at 400 Alemany Blvd. and 10 five-bedroom houses on the slope below the dead-end of Moultrie Street, above Alemany Housing. In 2000, after SBAA struggled for two years to be heard, the Planning Commission passed a resolution asking for a study of this area that would address issues of congestion and access. The study was never done. Since then, 400 Alemany was built; the 66 units behind the Farmers’ Market were approved (but have yet to be built); the developer planning ten houses on the slope above Alemany Housing paused his plans before approval and eventually sold his ten lots.

Now, with several proposed developments again in the planning stage for the slope above Alemany Public Housing, the SBAA, with a certain amount of dread, reinitiated their request to the Planning Department for a study of this area. This time around, however, the residents were pleasantly astounded when their first contact with the department, through Supervisor Ammiano, resulted in a face to face meeting with the Planning Department Zoning Administrator, Larry Badiner. Mr. Badiner gave his support and even offered assistance in gathering information related to conditions on the slope.

One of the essential problems posed by developing the privately owned lots on this slope are the unpaved streets created by planners in the early part of the twentieth century. These “paper” streets were laid out using a straight grid that didn’t take the topography into account. (In fact, the slope is too steep to engineer streets.) Unable to deviate from this outdated plan for street layout, the city intends, instead, to allow building on these streetless lots: access will be by stairway from the narrow ends of Moultrie, Andover, Bache, Porter and Roscoe. In 2000, the State of California has declared the

entire south slope a Hazard Zone for landslide in the event of an earthquake, adding another layer of concern to development in this area.

Going forward, however, we see a rare opportunity: Alemany Public Housing is due to be rebuilt. The challenge of integrating public housing with established, market rate neighborhoods is a problem facing all first world cities. “Further isolation of Alemany Public Housing threatens the cultural and economic diversity of Bernal Heights,” says Kevin Kitchingham, Housing Director at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. “A comprehensive plan will help reintegrate Alemany with the existing community’s amenities and infrastructure.”

In the case of south Bernal Heights, the wide swath of the South Slope’s undeveloped land divides the two communities. Conscientious development affords the opportunity to create a segue that would fold the public housing into the existing neighborhood. Any plan to do so must include input from all Bernal Heights residents, and be a community driven process where neighbors come together to provide a vision for the future of the South Slope.

One overwhelming problem is the city’s lack of funds for a study: SBAA would like to suggest grant funds must exist somewhere for the creation of a sensitive plan to meet this challenge. But funds or no funds, allowing the rote development of this slope, based on an outdated and undoable street plan and regardless of all the special circumstances that exist, is wrong. In the words of one resident, “This is San Francisco! Where’s the creativity?” ■

The struggle to get a survey of “paper streets” set in stone.

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COMMUNITY IS SAFETY

Bernal Resources to Help You Stay Safe

By Jeff Lester

The robberies at gunpoint on Cortland. The shots fired at a graffiti tagger on Bache Street. The murders near Holly Park Circle and on Fair Avenue. The attempted rape on the Eugenia stairs. The recent spate of street crime has left many in Bernal Heights anxious and unnerved,

with the command “Subscribe” in the subject line. You’ll receive an email titled “Please confirm your request to join Bernalsafe” with two sets of instructions to confirm your joining of the group. Unless you have a Yahoo account (or want one), the easiest step is the second one listed in the email: simply hit “reply” to the email

together and build strong networks of support and communication across racial, ethnic and linguistic differences. During its 15 year run, the S-Net Program has gone through many changes, and currently, it is funded by the Department of Children Youth and Families Convener Initiative. Sabrina Davidson is BHNC’s Safety Network Organizer and responsible for both the Bernal Heights and Excelsior neighborhoods which has been BHNC’s responsibility since the start of the S-Net program.

of the San Francisco Police Department, and David Burke with the District Attorney’s Office, with questions about neighborhood safety. “Over all the years I’ve lived in this neighborhood,” said a seated woman to the officers. “I never heard of a robbery with a gun. All of a sudden, in the last year, I’ve heard of at least four. Why?” Lt. Cassanego, at the front of the room, crossed and uncrossed his thick arms. “There’s been a serious crackdown in the city on drug crimes, so now, instead of the crime of dealing drugs for their money, they’re resorting to the crime of robberies. Or for those seeking initiation into gangs, they have to prove that they’re a felon. They rob somebody. People who are in need of drugs do street robberies. But, mainly, it’s all about money, and about desperation. We have four people in custody from the robbery at Precita. Four people in custody, and their total take was four dollars and a cell phone.” Attended by many of the members of the Bernalsafe mailing list, the meeting had an abundance of good tips. “When you call 553-0123,” said someone about the non-emergency police number, “to report something suspicious but there’s no crime taking place...if the dispatcher gives you any attitude about sending out police when no crime has happened, just be very polite and say that Captain O’Leary asked you to call this number. Every time we’ve done that, we’ve had police dispatched to investigate.” ■

To find out the date of the next Safety Meeting, contact Sabrina Davidson at BHNC at 206-2140, ext. 155, or email her at sdavidson@bhnc.org.



Officers for the San Francisco Police Department talk safety at BHNC. From left to right, Lt. Louis Cassanego, Officers Scotty Lau and Sid Sakurai, and Sgt. Aaron Lozada



David P. Burke with the San Francisco DA's office answers questions

eager to find out more and do something to change the situation. Below are four quick steps you can take to keep yourself informed and in touch with others in your community.

Join the Bernalsafe Mailing List

Moderated by BHNC’s Executive Director Joseph Smooke, the Bernalsafe mailing list has helped members of the community exchange tips, plan meetings, and share news for more than a decade. If you have email, you can join the Bernalsafe list by sending an email to Bernalsafe-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

and then “send.” This will give you membership in the mailing list, and allow you to send to, and receive emails from, everyone on the list. If you wish to have full access to the web features for the group, including photos, polls, and uploaded documents, follow the first set of instructions in the email.

The Bernalsafe Listserve exists because of BHNC’s participation in Safety Network (S-Net) which is a city-wide partnership of non profit organizations addressing public safety issues by organizing people in our communities to come

the surrounding neighborhoods, the instructions are much the same as above, except you send an email to InglesideStationNewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Again, if you wish to only join the mailing list, don’t want a Yahoo account, and have no interest in accessing the full set of web features for the group, follow the second set of instructions.

Attend the Safety Meetings

At a recent safety meeting at Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, members of the community peppered Lieutenant Louis Cassanego, other representatives



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2008: An Election with CLOUT

By Joseph Smooke

Anticipating a huge voter turnout because of the presidential race, many issues fought their way onto this year’s ballot creating one of the longest lists of state and local propositions in recent memory. We were proud to publish in our previous issue a slate of positions on a number of these State and local measures. For activists in Bernal Heights and the Excelsior, and for the leaders BHNC works with through our organizing collaborative (called CLOUT) with Chinatown CDC and Community Housing Partnership, it was a confusing time. Most people with whom we work had prioritized working to pass Proposition B since affordable housing is such a fundamental issue that has become even more urgent in recent months. As money poured into independent expenditures to fight these positions, however, we found that people naturally got distracted because there were so many attacks on so many issues at once. Individuals also got wrapped into the extremely important races for district supervisors, because literally the next four years of progressive values and politics at City Hall were at stake.

As we work to meet our content deadline for this issue of the NBJ, all ballots have still not been counted, so results we have are still preliminary. As of the morning of November 9, it looks like things will settle out as follows.

The Board of Supervisors will likely retain a progressive majority with Eric

Mar in District 1 (replacing Jake McGoldrick), David Chiu in District 3 (replacing Aaron Peskin), David Campos in District 9 (replacing Tom Ammiano), and John Avalos in District 11 (replacing Gerardo Sandoval). Incumbents Carmen Chu (District 4), Ross Mirkarimi (District 5), and Sean Elsbernd (District 7) will retain their seats.

Local Measures

Proposition A: SF General Hospital Earthquake Safety Bond. BHNC took a “yes” position, and at this time, 84.02% have voted yes, so even though this measure needed a two-thirds majority of yes votes to pass, it looks certain to pass.

Proposition B: SF Housing Fund. BHNC urged a “yes” vote on this critical issue. Unfortunately, B only secured 48.07% yes votes causing us to have to come up with a new strategy for funding the production of affordable housing.

Proposition L: Community Justice Center funding. SF voters agreed with BHNC to the extent that 57.94% of the votes were against Prop L.

Proposition M: Prohibit Landlord Harassment of Tenants. This received 59.46% votes in favor of the measure, and BHNC supported Prop M as well.

Propositions N and Q: Two Revenue Measures. BHNC urged passage of these two important revenue measures, and both have passed, N with 68.79% and Q with 74.22%.

Proposition S: Requires new Budget

set-asides to identify a replacement source of funds. BHNC took a “no” position, but voters passed this measure with 55.06% voting for Prop S.

Proposition U: Policy against funding the deployment of armed forces in Iraq. SF voters agreed with BHNC as 59.27% have voted to approve this measure.

State Measures

Proposition 4: Mandated Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of Minor’s Pregnancy. California voters appear to have defeated this measure with 52.2% voting “no,” and in San Francisco, we sent an even stronger message with 75.75% voting no, which was consistent with BHNC’s recommendation.

Proposition 6: Criminal Penalties, Public Safety Funding Statute. BHNC recommended defeat of this Proposition, and California voters agreed, with 69.4% voting against. In San Francisco, 79.3% voted against this measure.

Proposition 8: Eliminates the right of same-sex couples to marry. This has received a tremendous amount of press, including the NBJ urging people to vote against this discriminatory measure. San Francisco voters listened to the NBJ and 75.64% voted “no,” but this could not overcome the statewide vote that had only 47.7% voting no.

Analysis

Regardless of the distractions of the crowded ballot and candidate races, there was a tremendous amount of civic engagement, voter education, voter regis-

tration, and “Get Out The Vote” (GOTV) activities lasting for many weeks all the way through to the closing of the polls on November 4. BHNC is thrilled to have received a grant through the CLOUT collaborative from the Mitchell Kapor Foundation to support these activities. Because of this funding support, we will be able to continue this civic, democratic participation work beyond Election ’08 and for most of 2009.

We will be able to assess the impact of our work engaging people in the issues, registering them to vote, and encouraging voter turnout, when the City releases its precinct-by-precinct voting results. We already know that true to form, Bernal Heights had some of the highest rates of voter turnout in the City with 85.89% of North Bernal and 82.22% of South Bernal voters turning out to vote. By the time all ballots are counted, these numbers will likely increase. Even the Excelsior, which generally has a much lower voter turnout, had 75.29% of its voters voting.

Many thanks to all the BHNC staff and Board members, and neighborhood activists, leaders, and advocates who stood out in the rain and cold, distributed literature, spoke at neighborhood association and political club meetings, and participated in so many other activities that demonstrated the best of democracy in action person-to-person, door-to-door, and issue-by-issue. By this measure, this was a very successful election that bodes well for even stronger participation in future elections. ■



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BHNC PROGRAMS
HOUSING

THE DOLORES HOTEL:

Redevelopment with an Open Palm

By Sigmund Ting

On November 4, 2008, record numbers of people waited in lines to cast their ballots for an array of state and city propositions, as well as for the presidential election. Looking anxiously toward the future, these voters realized that any

On the thirtieth anniversary of BHNC’s founding, an important recognition.

number of possible outcomes would greatly affect the lives of those around them could become a reality.

Among some of the most talked-about items on the San Francisco ballot this year were marriage equality, environmental regulations, and affordable housing, but these ideas are nothing new to San Franciscans. In 1982, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors proposed health benefits for domestic partners. San Francisco affordable housing advocates have been active throughout the City since before the government’s deregulation of the housing industry in 1978. Despite the monumental shifts that may

occur as a result of 2008’s ballot proposals, the greatest changes to the City’s physical landscape still occur most through smaller incremental steps.

One such step toward the right direction will be taking shape within the next two years. Since May of this year, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and Dolores Street Community Services have officially been selected by the Mayor’s Office of Housing as co-developers in the rehabilitation of 59 single-room occupancy (SRO) units at the Dolores Hotel, located at 35 Woodward Street. Though Dolores Street Community Services will own the building, BHNC is providing the technical assistance to redevelop and put into operation the final product.

“Partnering with BHNC allows us to fulfill our long-standing goal of providing a continuum of housing options to the community we serve,” says Nick Pagoulatos, Director of Community Planning and Development and Coordinator of the Mission Anti-displacement Coalition at Dolores Street Community Services. “And it’s an invaluable opportunity to build our housing development capacity by working with one of the most respected affordable housing developers in the business. We hope that our team will be able to work together far into the future to build the kind of housing our neighborhood sorely lacks.”

The Dolores Hotel, constructed over a



Mason Jeffrys of DSCS honors Lariza Dugan-Cuadra of the Mayor’s Office of Community Development (now Mayor’s Office of Community Investment) for her work with the immigrant community at the 2007 Open Palm Awards.

century ago in 1907, formerly provided transitional housing for homeless adults who were dually diagnosed with acute mental illness and substance abuse. With the project currently in pre-development, it is estimated that the newly renovated Dolores Hotel will be in operation sometime in early 2010. The San Francisco Department of Public Health has decided to maintain the 59 SRO units as transitional housing units for formerly homeless individuals.

Mission neighborhood community members, along with other Bay Area citizens, gathered to celebrate Dolores Street Community Services’ 27 years of achievements in empowering underprivileged communities throughout San Francisco—Dolores Street Community Services hosted its annual Open Palm Awards at restaurant Cava 22 in the Mission on November 20.

At those awards, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center was specifically recognized for its work within the neighborhood. “We are all very pleased to be honoring an organization that has given so much to the community,” said Mason

Jeffrys, Director of Administration and Development at Dolores Street Community Services. The Neighborhood Center was honored with the distinguished Affordable Housing Award, receiving a potted sago palm tree to represent the shared vision between the Neighborhood Center and Dolores Street Community Services.

Joseph Smooke, Executive Director at Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, affirmed the shared vision of the future, stating, “Collaboration is important for building both capacity and community power. Our partnership with Dolores Street Community Services is critically important for the future implementation of the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan and the support of local business, living wage jobs, and affordable housing.”

On Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center’s thirtieth anniversary, the recognition of BHNC’s contributions definitely solicited noteworthy appreciation and delight. It will also—in tandem with the renovation of the Dolores Hotel—stand as a testament to the power of incremental steps. ■



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New Bernal Journal en Español

COVER STORY

Elecciones con CLOUT

continúa de página 1

NBJ, todas las boletas no han sido contadas, así que los resultados son preeliminares. En la mañana del 9 de noviembre parece que los resultados son como siguen:

La junta de supervisors probablemente mantendrá una mayoría progresiva con Eric Mar en el Distrito 1 (reemplazando a Jake McGoldrick), David Chiu en el Distrito 3 (reemplazando a Aaron Peskin), David Campos en el Distrito 9 (reemplazando a Tom Ammianno), y John Avalos en el Distrito 11 (reemplazando a Gerardo Sandoval). Carmen Chu (Distrito 4), Ross Mirkarimi (Distrito 5), y Sean Elsbernd (Distrito 7) permaneceran en sus puestos.

Medidas Locales

Proposición A: Bono para la seguridad contra terremotos del Hospital General de San Francisco. BHNC tomó una posición de “Si”, y por ahora, 84.02% han votado si, así que aunque esta medida necesitaba una mayoría de dos tercios para pasar, parece seguro que va a pasar.

Proposición B: Fondo de vivienda de SF. BHNC pidió un voto “Si” en esta medida crítica. Desafortunadamente, B solo consiguió un 48.07% de votos positivos, obligandonos a encontrar una nueva estrategia para financiar la producción de viviendas económicas.

Proposición L: Fondos para el Centro de Justicia Comunitaria. San Francisco estuvo de acuerdo con BHNC y 57.94% de los votos fueron en contra de Prop L.

Proposición M: Prohibición de actos específicos de acoso de inquilinos por sus arrendadores. Esto recibió 59.46% votes en favor, y BHNC también apoyó la Proposición M.

Proposiciones N and Q: Dos medidas de ingresos. BHNC apoyó a estas dos medidas importantes de ingresos, y ambas han pasado, N con 68.79% y Q con 74.22%.

Proposición S: Establece una nueva política que requiere que al poner de lado fondos del presupuesto se debe identificar una fuente de reemplazo para estos fondos. BHNC tomó una posición “no,” pero la medida se pasó con 55.06% votos a favor.

Proposición U: Política contra el financiamiento para el despliegue de fuerzas armadas a Iraq. San Francisco estuvo de acuerdo con BHNC; 59.27% de los votos fueron a favor.

Medidas Estatales

Proposición 4: Emmienda Constitucional que manda un periodo de espera y notificación parental antes de terminar el embarazo de una menor. Parece que California ha derrotado esta medida con un 52.2% votando no, y en San Francisco, mandamos un mensaje aún más fuerte con el 75.75% votando no, consistente con la recomendación de BHNC.

Proposición 6: Gastos para seguridad pública y penas criminales. BHNC recomendó derrotar esta medida y California estuvo de acuerdo, con 69.4% votos en contra. En San Francisco, 79.3% votó en contra.

Proposición 8: Elimina el derecho a casarse para parejas del mismo sexo. Esto ha recibido una gran cantidad de publicidad, incluyendo el NBJ. Pidiendole a la gente que vote en contra de esa medida discrimina-



JEFF LESTER

Alan Wong, Tami Bryant, y Carl Bryant hablan sobre sus candidatos y el futuro de Bernal en la Fiesta en la Calle 2008

toria. Los votantes en San Francisco escucharon y 75.64% votó en contra, pero no fue suficiente ya que el 47.7% del estado votó a favor.

Análisis

A pesar de las distracciones de una boleta electoral llena de medidas y candidatos, hubo una gran cantidad de compromiso cívico, educación electoral, registro electoral, y actividades para fomentar el voto, que duraron muchas semanas y continuaron hasta el cierre de los centros electorales el 4 de noviembre. BHNC esta muy ilusionado de haber recibido una beca de la Fundación Mitchell Kapor, a traves del colaborativo CLOUT para apoyar estas actividades. Gracias a este apoyo podremos continuar nuestro trabajo de participación cívica y democrática más alla de las elecciones del 2008 y por una gran parte del 2009.

Podremos evaluar el impacto de nuestro trabajo involucrando a los miembros de nuestra comunidad en estas medidas, registrando nuevos votantes, y fomentando el

voto cuando la ciudad publique los resultados electorales por precinto. Ya sabemos que como siempre Bernal Heights tuvo una de las tasas más altas de votantes, con 85.89% del Norte de Bernal y 82.22% del Sur de Bernal votando. Cuando todas las boletas sean contadas estos números probablemente aumentaran. Hasta el Excelsior, que por lo general tiene una tasa de votantes bastante más baja, tuvo un 75.29% de sus listas electorales votando.

Muchas gracias a los empleados y miembros de la junta directiva de BHNC y vecinos activistas y líderes por su participación, quienes se pararon en el frío y en la lluvia distribuyendo literature, hablando en asociaciones vecindarias y clubes políticos, y participando en muchas otras actividades que demuestran lo mejor de la democracia, en acciones de persona a persona, de puerta a puerta y de medida a medida. De este punto de vista las elecciones fueron un éxito, marcando un buen camino para una participación aún más fuerte en las futuras elecciones. ■

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La lucha por St. Luke's— Pasado, Presente & Futuro

Por Bob Prentice

Quando Sutter Health, una red de hospitales en el Norte de California, tomó control sobre el Hospital St. Luke's en el 2001, la gente se sintió aliviada y preocupada a la misma vez – aliviada porque St. Luke's estaba a punto de cerrar, así que cualquier oportunidad para que permanezca abierta fue bienvenida; preocupada porque todos sospechaban que el aplazamiento del cierre era poco más que relaciones públicas para Sutter Health, que se encontraba bajo presión por sus practicas laborales y una mala historia de cuidado caritativo. Cuando California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC), un grupo de hospitales en San Francisco que también eran parte de Sutter Health, anunció un convenio de afiliación con el Hospital St. Luke's en el 2005, el rompecabezas se hizo más complicado ya que CPMC era conocido por proveer servicios para pacientes con seguro médico en la partes más ricas de la ciudad, mientras que St. Luke's estaba perdiendo dinero sirviendo a una población más pobre con Medi-Cal en el sur de la ciudad.

Así que no fue ninguna sorpresa cuando CPMC anunció hace un poco más de un año que iba a cerrar su centro de cuidados agudos (para pacientes hospitalizados) en St. Luke's, y nuestro vecindario se quedaría con un centro para pacientes externos con un convenio con un hospital en el otro lado de la ciudad. Sin embargo, poco después de hacer el anuncio CPMC se retrajo y, en negociaciones con la ciudad, aceptó crear el Panel de Cinta Azul para considerar opciones para mantener a St. Luke's abierto con todos sus servicios. El Panel de Cinta Azul, compuesto por representantes de organizaciones comunitarias, trabajadores, empresas, académicos, gobernantes y organizaciones de salud, tuvo su primera reunión en Marzo de este año. El Centro Vecindario de Bernal Heights fue representado en el Panel.

Salvando al Hospital St. Luke's

El Panel de Cinta Azul publicó su informe sobre “El Futuro del Hospital St. Luke’s” el 25 de agosto del 2008. Entre sus once recomendaciones varias fueron particularmente importantes:

- CPMC debe construir un nuevo hospital con un centro de cuidado agudo en el campus de St. Luke's;
- St. Luke's debe estar completamente integrado a la misión, estrategia y operaciones del sistema de CPMC;
- El tamaño del hospital debe ser apropiado para la combinación de servicios planeados;

- Los servicios proveídos en St. Luke's deben incluir, pero no estar limitados a, un centro de excelencia en ginecología y obstetricia de bajo impacto, cirugía (cardiología, cuidado respiratorio, etc), emergencias, cuidado intensive, urgencias, pediatría, un Centro de Excellencia en salud de mayores, y camas con enfermeros para cuidados ortopédicos, mayores y pacientes de cirugía; y,
- St. Luke's debe ser un Centro de Excelencia en salud comunitaria.

Otras recomendaciones se refirieron a la importancia de cuidados primarios, retención de empleados, estrategias financieras para mejorar la viabilidad del hospital, enfoques regionales para asegurar la calidad de cuidados psiquiátricos hospitalarios, cuidados sub-agudos, reclutamiento de profesionales culturalmente competentes y diversos, y la ubicación de un nuevo hospital al lado del presente edificio. (Para leer el informe completo vaya a www.cpmcbeyondmedicine.com.)

En su reunión el 25 de septiembre del 2008, la Junta Directiva de CPMC adoptó las recomendaciones del Panel de Cinta Azul y autorizó a su administración a proceder con el plan de implementación.

Esto ha sido una Victoria extremadamente importante para el sur de la ciudad, especialmente despues de que CPMC haya inicialmente anunciado sus planes para cerrar el cuidado agudo en el Hospital St. Luke's. De los 11 hospitales en San Francisco, solo dos – San Francisco General y St. Luke's – estan al sur de Market. Y, a pesar de que la Universidad de California planea construir un nuevo hospital en Mission Bay, este va a especializarse en cuidados especiales y no va a ser el hospital comunitario que St. Luke's ha sido para nuestro vecindario. El cambio de planes de la Junta Directiva de CPMC y la adopción de las recomendaciones del Panel de Cinta Azul asegura un recurso importante para la comunidad, ahora y en el futuro.

Preparándonos para los Próximos Pasos

Mientras que el vecindario tiene buenas razones para celebrar, es prematuro declarar victoria. Todavía hay un largo camino por recorrer antes de que el nuevo hospital se haga realidad. Por ejemplo, aunque las recomendaciones del Panel de Cinta Azul claramente dicen que “el tamaño del hospital debe ser adecuado para la combinación de servicios planeada,” CPMC habla de un hospital con 60-80 camas, que es pequeño para

Una importante victoria, pero la lucha para hacer que St. Luke's siga siendo un recurso vital para la comunidad no ha terminado aun.

un hospital urbano. Esto es lo que CPMC le ha pedido a sus arquitectos que diseñen. Aunque esta más o menos en línea con el censo actual, no deja lugar para cambios en la población en las próximas décadas, ni toma en cuenta los servicios que el Panel de Cinta Azul recomendó. La intención de las recomendaciones del Panel de Cinta Azul era hacer un análisis del número de camas los servicios recomendados requerirían para determinar el tamaño del hospital.

Parece que CPMC esta determinado a mantener el hospital pequeño y minimizar su rol en los planes generales. St. Luke's pasará a ser parte del Nuevo plan institucional de CPMC, que esta centrado alrededor de la creación de un nuevo hospital de 555 camas, que formará parte de un complejo medico en Cathedral Hill en la Avenida Van Ness. De acuerdo a su plan, cerrarían su centro de cuidados agudos en el campus Pacifico en Buchanan y Clay (el antiguo Hospital Presbiteriano), cerrarian el campus entero en California (el antiguo Hospital de Niños) y mantendrian los servicios de neurociencias en el Campus de Davies (el antiguo Hospital Ralph K. Davies). El nuevo hospital de Cathedral Hill se especialisaría en cuidados muy especializados y medicina de alta tecnología.

Podemos influenciar el proceso. No hay duda de que la razón por la cual CPMC cambió su plan de cerrar los cuidados agudos en St. Luke's y formar el Panel de Cinta Azul es que creen que sino no recibirían el apoyo

politico necesario para su nuevo hospital. Probablemente tienen razón.

Pero el nuevo hospital de Cathedral Hill enfrenta un camino difícil. Van a haber problemas de zonas para un hospital y complejo médico del tamaño propuesto. Va a haber oposición de parte de los vecinos, que ya ha sido vocalizado por la Asociación del Vecindario de Cathedral Hill. De hecho, hay una gran posibilidad de que CPMC no consiga su hospital de 555 camas, lo que nos da una oportunidad de actuar. Si el hospital de Cathedral Hill es más chico que lo planeado, St. Luke's podría tener más de 60-80 camas. La Supervisora Alioto-Pier sugirió a la administración de CPMC en una de las reuniones del Panel de Cinta Azul que tienen un hospital que la comunidad desesperadamente quiere y están proponiendo un hospital en un área donde algunos miembros de la comunidad van a pelear para que no se construya, así que porque no prestan atención a la política y cambian la cantidad de camas en ambos hospitales? Además, dada la distribución desigual de hospitales en la ciudad es mejor para el sistema de salud en San Francisco tener más camas al Sur de Market.

Si queremos aprovecharnos de esta oportunidad debemos comenzar a organizarnos ahora. Tenemos que educar y convencer a los nuevos miembros de la Junta de Supervisores. Tenemos que trabajar con los vecinos de Cathedral Hill. Tenemos que construir un frente unido con otros vecinos de nuestra área, incluyendo Bayview/Hunters Point, la Mission y el Excelsior. Y tenemos que trabajar con los laboristas, los empleados de St. Luke's, y otras organizaciones, nuestros aliados en esta campaña. La lucha para hacer que St. Luke's sea un recurso vital en nuestra comunidad en el espíritu de las recomendaciones del Panel de Cinta Azul, deberá ser una campaña organizada. El Centro Vecindario de Bernal Heights esta preparado para la campaña. ■



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Ang Pakikibaka para sa St. Luke’s: Nakaraan, Kasalukuyan at Kinabukasan

ulat ni Bob Prentice

Nang maging sakop ang St. Luke’s Hospital ng Sutter Health, isang grupo ng mga ospital sa Northern California noong 2001, marami ang sabay na nag-buntong-hininga at kinabahan. Buntong-hininga dahil muntik nang magsara ang St. Luke’s at anumang posibilidad na ito’y manatiling bukas ay magandang balita. At kinakabahan din naman dahil marami ang may suspetsang ito’y pansamantalang balita lamang upang mapaganda ang reputasyon ng Sutter na namimilitang sumang-ayon dahil sa kanilang masamang trato sa mga manggagawa at pangit na kasaysayan pagdating sa pag-aalaga ng mga mahihirap at mamamayang walang “medical insurance.” Katakataka rin nang ang California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC), isang grupo ng ospital sa San Francisco na kabahagi rin ng Sutter Health ay nagpahayag ng isang “affiliation agreement” sa St. Luke’s noong 2005, dahil ang reputasyon ng CPMC ay sa pag-aalaga ng mga pasyenteng may pribadong “insurance” at mga mamamayang may-kaya; habang ang St. Luke’s ay nalulugi sa pag-aalaga ng mga mahihirap at mga gumagamit ng Medi-Cal sa timog ng lungsod.

Dahil dito ay hindi kagulat-gulat nang magpahayag ang CPMC noong mga isang taong nakaraan na ito’y isasara ang “acute (inpatient) care” sa St. Luke’s Hospital at ang matitira lamang sa ating purok ay isang “outpatient facility” na kaugnay sa isang ospital sa kabilang dako ng bayan. Subalit hindi nagtagal ay bumalikwas ito sa desisyong magsara at ukol sa kasunduan sa lungsod ng San Francisco ay pumayag ang CPMC na magbuo ng “Blue Ribbon Panel” upang maghanap ng paraan para manatiling bukas ang St. Luke’s bilang isang “full service” na ospital. Noong Marso ay nagpulong-pulong ang “Blue Ribbon Panel” na may mga representatibo ng mga “community organization, labor, business, academia, health care” at gobyerno lokal. Ang Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center ay kasama sa grupong ito.

Pagliligtas ng St. Luke’s

Noong ika-25 ng Agosto, 2008 ay ipinakita ng “Blue Ribbon Panel” ang resulta ng kanilang pagpupulong-pulong. Ilan sa kanilang labing-isang rekomendasyon ang importanteng tingnan natin:

- Ang CPMC ay dapat magpagawa ng ba-

- gong “acute care community hospital” sa dako ng St. Luke’s Hospital
- Dapat na isali sa pangkalahatang misyon, stratehiya at operasyon ng CPMC ang St. Luke’s Hospital
- Ang kalakihan ng bagong ospital ay dapat katumbas ng mga planong serbisyong ihahandog dito
- Dapat na kasama pero hindi limitado sa mga serbisyo na ihahandog sa St. Luke’s ay ang isang “Center for Excellence in gynecology and low-intervention obstetrics, medical/surgical (cardiology, respiratory care, atbp.), emergency department, intensive care, urgent care, pediatrics, Center for Excellence in senior health” at “skilled nursing beds to serve orthopedics, senior health and medical/surgical patients;” at
- Dapat na maging “Center of Excellence in community health” ang St. Luke’s Hospital

Ang iba pang rekomendasyon ay ukol sa importansya nang “primary care” at “health promotion;” pagpapanatili ng mga manggagawa; stratehiya pinansyal upang mapanatili ang kasiglahan ng ospital; mga “regional approach” upang maging sigurado at husto ang “inpatient psychiatry, subacute services” at distribusyon ng “primary care;” ang pagtanggap at paghahanap ng mga “culturally competent” at “diverse health care professional, “ at ang pagtayo ng bagong ospital sa lokasyon na malapit sa kasalukuyang gusali. (Para sa buong dokumento, pumunta kayo sa “website” na www.cpmcbeyondmedicine.com).

Sumang-ayon sa mga rekomendasyon ng “Blue Ribbon Panel” ang CPMC Board of Directors noong ika-25 ng Septyembre, 2008 at pinahintulutan nitong tuparin ng mga tagapangasiwa ng CPMC ang pagpapalano at implementasyon nito.

Isa itong importanteng tagumpay para sa mga mamamayan sa timog ng San Francisco, lalo na’t ang unang pahayag ng CPMC ay isara ang “acute care” sa St. Luke’s. Sa labing isang ospital sa San Francisco, dalawa lang ang nasa timog ng Market (“south of Market”)– ang San Francisco General Hospital at St. Luke’s. At bagama’t planong magtayo ng bagong ospital ang University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) sa Mission Bay, ang tanging layunin nito ay “specialty care” at “di tulad ng ospital pang-komunidad na ginagampanan ng St. Luke’s para sa ating

pook. Ang pagbabalikwas ng plano ng CPMC Board of Directors na isara ang St. Luke’s at pagsasang-ayon nito sa mga rekomendasyon ng “Blue Ribbon Panel” ay nagtamo ng isang mahalagang institusyon para sa komunidad natin ngayon at sa kinabukasan.

Paghahanda para sa Susunod na Pagkilos

Bagama’t may dahilan tayo upang magdiwang, masyado pang maaga upang sabihing tayo’y tuluyang nagtagumpay. Marami pang hakbang ang kailangang ganapin upang matupad ang pagtatayo ng bagong ospital. Isang halimbawa ay kahit na ang rekomendasyon ng “Blue Ribbon Panel” ay maliwanag na ang kalakihan ng bagong ospital ay dapat katumbas ng mga planong serbisyong ihahandog dito, ang kusang pahayag ng CPMC ay ang pagtatayo ng ospital na may 60-80 na kama lamang – isang mas-yadong maliit na bilang para sa isang ospital na nasa lokasyong “urban.” Itong bilang na ito rin ang itinagubilin ng CPMC sa kanilang mga arkitekto sa kanilang pagpapalano ng disenyo ng ospital. Datapwa’t ang bilang na ito ay katumbas ng kasalukayang “census” - hahadlang ito sa pagbabago ng ospital batay sa pagbabago ng populasyon sa mga susunod na dekada. Gayundin ay hindi nito sinasama sa pagpapalano ang mga serbisyong inirerekomenda ng “Blue Ribbon Panel”. Gayunpaman, ang pakay ng “Blue Ribbon Panel” ay suriin kung gaano karaming kama ang kailangan batay sa mga serbisyong kanilang inirerekomenda para sa bilang ng mga mamamayang magtatangkilik dito upang malaman kung gaano talagang kalaki ang dapat na itayong ospital.

Mukha talagang balak ng CPMC na maliit lang ang itatayong ospital at paliitin din ang parte nito sa kanilang mga plano. Ang St. Luke’s ay magiging bahagi na ngayon ng bagong “Institutional Master Plan” ng CPMC – tampok dito ay ang pagtatayo ng bagong ospital na may 555 na kama na parte ng isa pang mas malaking “medical complex” sa Cathedral Hill sa Van Ness Avenue. Ayon sa kanilang plano ay isasara nila ang “acute care” sa kanilang Pacific “campus” sa Buchanan at Clay (Presbyterian Hospital), isasara ang kanilang buong California “campus” (Children’s Hospital) at ipagpapatuloy ang kanilang mga “neuroscience service” sa kanilang Davies “campus” (Ralph K. Davis Hospital). Ang bagong ospital sa Cathedral Hill ay magbibigay diin sa “highly specialized care” at “high tech medicine.”

Walang alinlangang nagbago ang isip ng CPMC sa pagsasara ng “acute care” sa St. Luke’s at bumuo ito ng “Blue Ribbon Panel” dahil alam nilang hindi nila makukuha ang kailangan nilang suporta politikal upang makapagpatayo ng bagong ospital. Ibig sabihin nito ay may lakas tayo bilang miyembro ng komunidad na nangangailangan at tumatangkilik sa ospital na tulad ng St. Luke’s.

At pati na ang bagong Cathedral Hill Hospital ay may malaking sagabal sa pagpapatayo: mga “zoning issues” para sa kalakihan na kanilang pinaplanong ipagawa at ang paghihimagsik ng Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Association sa ospital na ito. Sa totoo lang ay marahil na hindi mapapagawa ng CPMC ang kanilang gustong ospital na may 555 na kama - at ito ang ating pagkakataon. Kung mas maliit ang Cathedral Hill Hospital kaysa sa kanilang plano ay talagang pue-deng maging mas malaki ang St. Luke’s Hospital imbes na sa ospital na 60-80 lang na kama. Tulad ng sinabi ni Supervisor Michaela Alioto-Pier sa mga tagapangasiwa ng CPMC, mayroon na silang ospital sa lugar kung saan ito’y talagang kailangan at tina-tangkilik ng komunidad, habang sila’y nagmumungkahing magtayo ng ospital sa lugar kung saan ayaw naman sila ng mga kapitbahay (Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Association) - bakit hindi pa sila makinig at ibahin ang kanilang plano? Bukod pa dito ay dahilan sa tabinging bilang ng ospital sa iba’t ibang parte ng San Francisco, mas mabuti pa para sa lahat na magkaroon ng mas maraming kapasidad ang mga ospital sa South of Market.

Ang Ating Pagkakataon

Kung talagang gusto nating pagsamantalahin ang pagkakataon, kailangan nating kumilos ngayon! Kailangan nating ipaalam at makamit ang suporta ng mga bagong miyembro ng Board of Supervisors. Kailangan nating makipagtulungan sa ating mga kapwa mamamayan sa Cathedral Hill at kailangan nating makipag-isa at makibaka sa kalapit nating mga lugar tulad ng Bayview/Hunters Point, Mission at Excelsior. Kailangan din nating makipagtulungan sa mga manggagawa ng St. Luke’s, “labor” at mga “senior organization” na ating kakampi sa kilusang ito. Kailangan tayong makibakang lahat upang magtagumpay at mapatunay ang mga rekomendasyon ng “Blue Ribbon Panel” na maging isang “vital community resource” ang St. Luke’s Hospital. Kami sa Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center ay handa para sa kilusang ito. ■



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COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Preschool Committee Completes Feasibility Study, Incorporates

By Mauricio Vela

After two years of very slow progress—Supervisor Ammiano providing funding during the annual city budget process only to have the mayor take back 80% as part of his mid-year cut; the struggles with parent participation as families move on to kindergarten; dealing with facility problems and staff changes at the temporary site at Paul Revere—the Bernal Preschool campaign is entering its next phase of development.

Hours of research, discussions, and changes have taken place to produce the final draft of the feasibility study, which went to the printer on November 15, 2008. Included in the study are preliminary drawings and a floor plan, a predevelopment and development budget to build a two class room Preschool and Learning Center building of almost three thousand square feet, a program operations plan and budget, and a ten year operations Performa including a reserve.

Three sites were studied. Although no site control has been obtained for any of the three, the Friends of the Bernal Preschool & Learning Center, as part of the study, have made clear their preference.

Our goal is to serve forty preschoolers per semester: the site will serve twenty-four all day students, eight part-time students in the morning, and another eight students in the afternoon. Early child development education would be provided to preschool parents, nannies, and

others. As part of the Learning Center, City College has offered to provide evening course work in a variety of topics, and additional classes and activities in Recreation and Health Education would be offered. Because our program/enrollment budget would allow for 75% of the slots to be subsidized, and an additional

The Friends of the Bernal Preschool & Learning Center will continue to advocate with the community to build a first-class preschool.

25% of the slots would be tuition based, all Bernal families could apply for enrollment in the Bernal Preschool & Learning Center.

One step of the final phase of the study was to incorporate the Save the Bernal Preschool Committee into the Friends of the Bernal Preschool & Learning Center. The five inaugural board members are Bob Hernandez, Elizabeth Hernandez, Gladys Soto, Maria Luz Torre, and Cindy Yannacone. The main purpose of the Friends of the Bernal Preschool & Learning Center will be to pro-

THE GHOSTS OF HALLOWEEN PAST



BY MEGGA GANNARINO

Happy Halloween! Everyone is a winner in the Costume Contest at the annual Bernal Gateway Apartments Halloween party held on October 29. There were lots of games with candy prizes for the youth, a mini haunted house, and pizza for the whole family. The festivities were organized by Lutheran Social Services. Pictured: Tina Gonzales and the kids of Bernal Gateway Apartments pose in costume.

vide advocacy, fundraising, advisory efforts, and other roles as needed, as well as providing parent and community education, and family support.

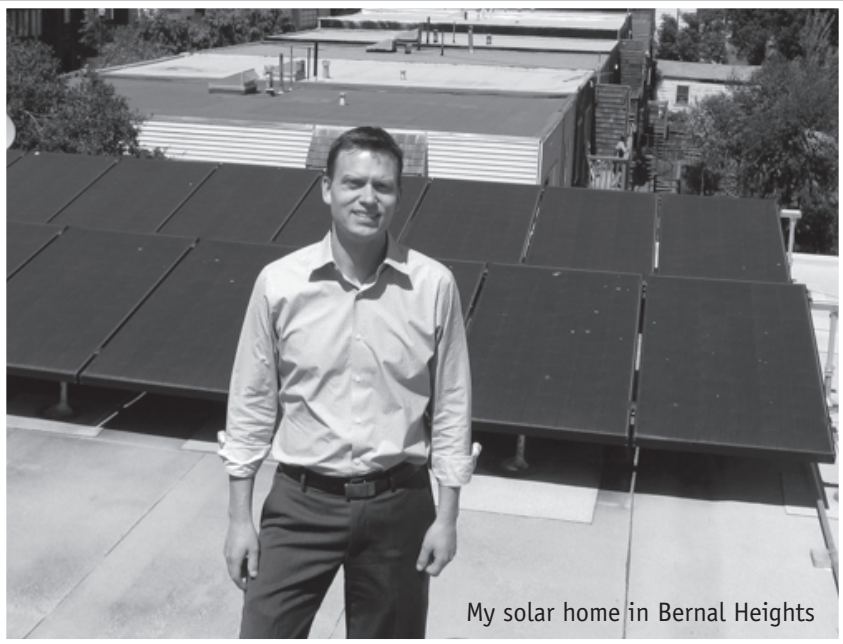
Our next phase will be to include additional members of the community while continuing to raise additional funds for the future development. While the Friends are fully aware that at this time a future site is not guaranteed, they will continue to advocate with supportive members of the community to build a first-class preschool and learning center that will benefit not only the students and their families, but the entire community. Numerous studies, such as the recent released RAND study, have shown that productive adults have benefited from a positive early educational experience.

The Friends couldn't have gotten this far without the support of Supervisor Ammiano and other members of the

board of supervisors, as well as the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, which is serving as the Preschool Committee's fiscal agent. Additional community and organizational support, from groups such as Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth, has been vital to our ongoing persistence and tenacity. Most importantly, the Bernal Preschool families, who struggle to survive daily economic and cultural challenges, have continued to devote precious time to be involved in the campaign. ■

If you have questions or want to get involved in the Friends of the Bernal Preschool & Learning Center's work, please call Parent Voices at 343-3383 and leave your contact information or call/e-mail Armando Vasquez, the Bernal Preschool & Learning Center Project Manager at (415) 425-1771 or avarchcm@rcn.com.

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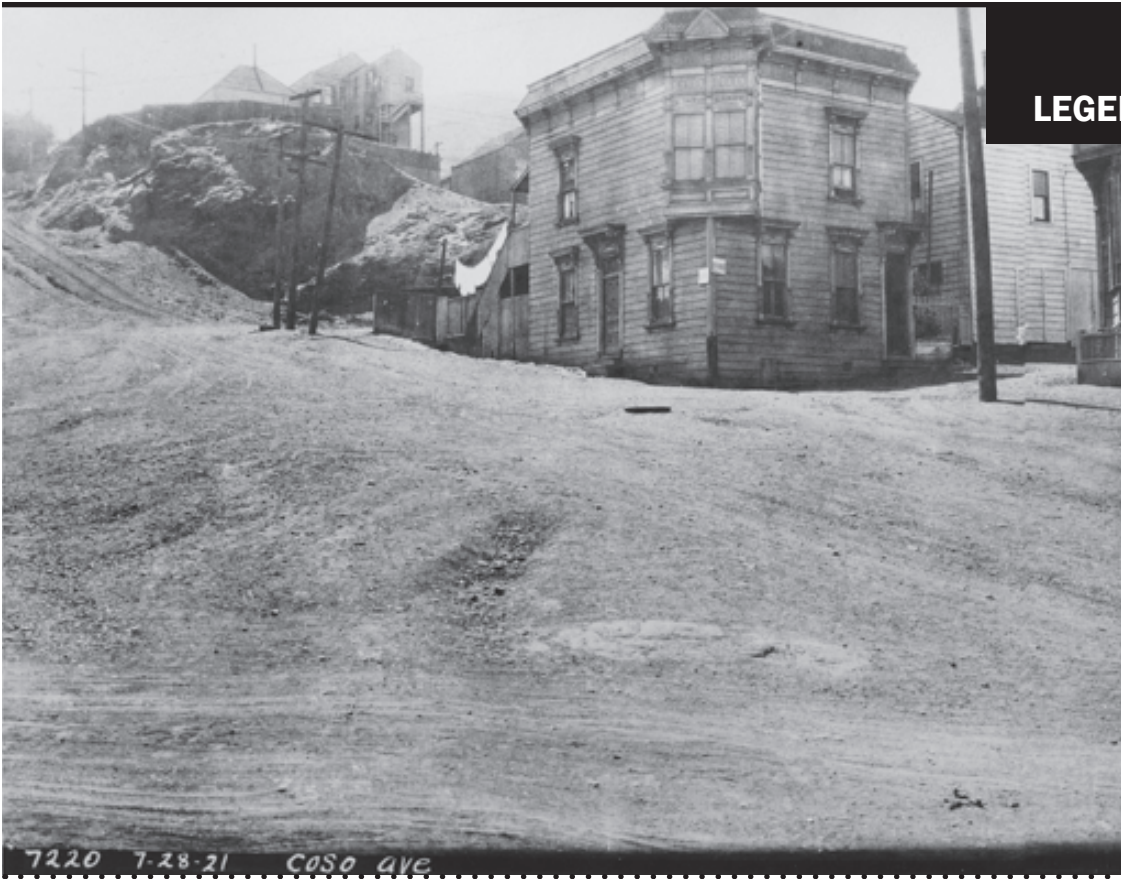
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LEGENDS OF THE HILL

BERNAL HEIGHTS HISTORY

By Terry Milne

Street maintenance was an overwhelming concern to the neighborhood in the 1920s. Looking up Coso Avenue in July 1921, it's easy to see why: on a steep hill, badly eroded, are streets which need paving. The sidewalk-stairs are already constructed on the left side of Coso, but it will be almost ten years before the City gets around to paving the street. By then, there will be a lot more automobiles in this working-class neighborhood, which the clamor for improved streets will increase. All over Bernal Heights, paving the dirt streets will be a huge issue into the 1930s.

Today, the cliff still looms above houses on Prospect Avenue, still crumbling, and still sliding down into the street. Even in the 21st century, shoring and repair have been necessary. The house on the corner, 130 Coso/One Lundy's Lane, is still there, somewhat renovated. The houses far uphill on the left face Winfield Street, and they too still exist.

Library Notes

By Lisa Dunseth

What's Happening at the Library?

Renovation work has been moving along at a brisk pace. The access ramp has been poured, the roof has been tarred, and new copper flashing is in place. Downstairs, a new concrete pad has been poured and walls are being framed. Work is also proceeding on the new stairwell and elevator. For pictures of these developments please visit us at our blog: <http://bernal-heightsbranchlibrary.blogspot.com/>

Holiday Puppet Fun and Storytime

Just because our library is closed doesn't mean we can't celebrate the season. Thanks to Four Star Video we will be presenting puppeteer

Nick Barone's "Enchanted Forest." Mark your festivities calendar for Thursday, December 4 at 4:30 and join us for some holiday cheer. Location: Four Star Video! (402 Cortland Avenue, 415-641-5380.)

Red Hill Books continues to support our Tuesday and Thursday storytimes. The family/toddler storytimes start at 10am. Join us for songs, rhymes, finger plays and books. Our group is a lively and congenial one! (401 Cortland Ave.)

Holiday Gift Ideas

How about your name forever memorialized on a tile at the entrance to the library? It's not too late to make that happen!

Or!... for those on a budget the new library tote bag, featuring a beautiful rendering of an original light fixture might



Finally, the new accessible ramp! Picture your name on a tile at the entrance to your branch library!

VALERIE REICHERT

be just the thing.

Or!... what about the *Bernal Eats* cookbook full of family-friendly recipes? Support the library and do holiday shopping at the same time! Call or email Marian Chatfield-Taylor, at Friends of the Library, to make your purchase: 415-626-7512, x103 or marian.ctaylor@friendssfpl.org.

Holiday Book Club Meeting

Join the Bernal Book Club for a special meeting at the Breger Art House (80 Bronte Street) to discuss *The Horse's Mouth* by Joyce Cary on Thursday, December 18

at 4 pm. Bring a treat to share and enjoy a tour of one of Bernal's most unique houses at the same time. For more information: www.artfools.com.

The group resumes meeting at Coleridge Park Homes (190 Coleridge) on January 29 at 4 pm to discuss *Sister Carrie* by Theodore Dreiser. Everyone is welcome.

Holiday Reading: Staff Recommends

Lisa: *The Fortune Cookie Chronicles* by Jennifer 8. Lee.
Trish: *Spellman Files* by Lisa Lutz.
Valerie: *Last Child In The Woods* by Richard Louv. ■

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Wednesdays	8p	Classical Revolution
Sundays	11am	Bill Carey Quartet

Other Music and Events in December:

December 4	8p	The Socha Film Project
December 5	8p	Raul and Friends
December 6	8p	Jazz Placebos
December 11	8p	Carolyna Picknick & Friends
December 12	8p	Jesse Brewster
December 13	8p	Todd Nelson Acapella Trio
December 18	8p	Elliot Racine
December 19	8p	Brian Denison
December 20	8p	Charles Gonzalez & Lizzie Coon
December 26	8p	Dominique & Jean Paul Carton
December 27	8p	Campo Bravo & Friends

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COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Letter from Tom Ammiano

The BHNC staff and volunteers deserve huge accolades for the overwhelming success of the Fiesta on the Hill this year: The Neighborhood Center truly remains the gold standard for the City's community hubs, and continues to be the model of positive and productive community organizing, and a deliverer of vital services to the community.

Of late, there have been a number of violent incidents reported on and near the Eugenia staircase (at Prospect). As is often the case, predators discovered the overgrown trees and insufficient lighting provided cover for criminal activity. Working with the Neighborhood Center, Captain O'Leary, the SFPUC, and DPW, my office was able to facilitate a quick response. The trees have been trimmed, the light wattage has been increased, and Ingleside station has increased patrols. That said, call my office immediately

(554-5144) if you witness any suspicious activity in the area.


Last, I want to thank the Bernal community from the bottom of my heart for the support, encouragement, and strength that you have given me over the years, and for allowing me the profound honor to be your voice on the Board of Supervisors in City Hall for the last fourteen years, serving as both your citywide and District Nine Supervisor.

I will be sworn into the California State Assembly as your District Thirteen representative on December 1, 2008, and my victory at the polls on November 4 was due in no small part to the continued support of the good people of Bernal Hill and the Mission. I promise I will continue to fight hard from the moment I take office in Sacramento to achieve our shared goals. I thank you again for the privilege of allowing me to continue to represent you. ■

My victory at the polls was due in no small part to the good people of Bernal Hill and the Mission.

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ALTAR CELEBRATING DEAD BRINGS LIVING CLOSER



DRUMMOND BUCKLEY



The senior and organizing department of BHNC created a wonderful altar for the Zeum children's museum: to celebrate Día de los Muertos, BHNC's senior leaders organized an authentic altar to show the tradition to the youth of San Francisco. We were honored to see the youth participate by adding their ancestors' names to the memorial, and humbled and delighted to be a part of Zeum's celebration. BHNC works to enhance and preserve the ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity of Bernal Heights and surrounding neighborhoods, and we give thanks to Zeum for allowing us to honor our community and ancestors.

— Sabrina Davidson

Isn't it time for child-sized emergency care?

San Francisco children now have a better option for emergency care. Our Pediatric Emergency Department is dedicated to children ages birth to 18. Child-sized equipment and private rooms, doctors trained in pediatrics and emergency medicine, and Child Life staff who help children cope with medical emergencies make all the difference when dealing with a crisis. While an emergency is never in the plans, plan on us if one happens.

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THE REAL DEAL: NOTES FROM CORTLAND

By Darcy Lee

I can worry—I am a pro. Sometimes it is miscellaneous: other times, focused and specific. Sometimes while I am worrying someone will chat with me or I will get distracted and then I think “Hmmm-mmm, where was I with my worry?” And suddenly it cooperates and I can go right back, the way a toddler pops a thumb into his mouth. It is a familiar way of thinking. I see it now at this time of my life as a useless filter that captures and blocks out a lot of joy, so I try and lift it off and rationalize how fruitless all my worries are.

But this election season tested me. I worried all the time. And when one worry was solved, another popped up: Old Caucasian guy with experience against young, smart minority human; educated refined zen vs. a rat-a-tat-tat “I’ve been tortured” military strongman; really strange languageless (or at least sentence structureless) babe vs. a middle class experienced senator who talks a lot; “friends-with-terrorists-when-candidate-was-eight” against “I-am-a-redneck-and-proud-of-it.”

Yeesh. And then it stopped, and in a wonderful break that the mind gives you every once in a while, I got to watch the world change and I cried (sort of a lot). The next day I was at the flower mart. Karmen Kwong from Morgan Hill is a grower there. He is from China, a funny, muttering sort of man, efficient, odd and, due to reasonable prices and fresh product, he is often surrounded by empty buckets. He said to me as he was wrapping my stuff in newspaper, “now my daughter could be president.” And it went straight to my mind and then to my heart and I

realized what a huge group of humans I belong to who’ve been touched by this miracle, and my worries subsided until I started loading the car.

I have organized two safety walks. The first one was a resounding success, with families and singles uniting to just take a walk. I did not feel well for the second one and there was a small turnout. I worry that I spread myself too thin and that my follow up is less than my first surge of energy. So if you see a little poster that says “we are walking...” put down the remote control or your spoon or your screen and come along.

Bernal is experiencing a crime surge. The good part of this is that the safety groups are uniting in solidarity. If you are worried about crime on your block, join the Bernal safe yahoo group and get connected. Thanks to Sabrina Davidson from the BHNC, and the Eugenia Safety Block Group, DPW, and Zach from Tom Ammiano’s office for getting the trees cut and making the streetlights brighter on the Eugenia stairs. This is a crime hot spot, a large group of dedicated folks are focused on fixing this, and it is working.

I worry I am so different than David Ayoub. He was so effective. On that note, the trees on Cortland need their bricks lifted out and taken away now. The string lights are choking the trees and need to be removed. If you are a tree guy, please volunteer to help in this process. Keep your eye out for notices re: a neighborhood work day.

Thanks for all of you who joined the BBA. Please, if you work in Bernal and are interested in what happens here and want to be listed in our business directory, come by Four Star or Heartfelt and pick up a form to join. Local strength is very important, financially. We cannot control

We cannot control the bigger picture, but can support our micro economy here in Bernal Heights.

the bigger picture, but can support our micro economy here in Bernal Heights.

Pick fruit and put it on the Fruits of The Hill cart. Pick your neighbors fruit. Grow stuff.

No room? Grow herbs. When I go to friends’ houses or look at houses for sale in BH, I always find myself looking out the windows and saying, “Look at all those lemons, why don’t they pick them?”

I won’t bore you with my basic flotilla of worries. Often worries are very dense,

hard masses, and the secret to making them go away, or problem solving, is to smash them into smaller bits and then like those little roly balls of mercury, they are smaller and seemingly easier to handle. And remember, while you are dealing, ask, “who can help me?”

Douglas Adams wrote, “Human Beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so.” So reach out, look at things differently than you did yesterday, and remember: change can happen. —with caring, d.

P.S. I am very sorry regarding Prop 8. P.P.S. Rest in Peace, Ron Robertson. The ocean welcomes you and your lovely spirit. I miss your cookies.

P.P.P.S. Thanks to Finnegan for singing in the morning. ■



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COVER STORY

Struggle for St. Luke’s

continued from page 1

sion Bay area, it will emphasize specialty care and will not be the kind of community hospital St. Luke’s has been for our neighborhood. The CPMC Board of Directors’ reversal of its plans to close acute care at St. Luke’s, and its adoption of the Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations, secures a valuable community resource now and in the future.

Bracing for the Next Steps

On the other hand, while the neighborhood rightly has cause for celebration, it is premature to declare victory. There is still a long way to go before the proposed hospital becomes a reality. For ex-

ample, although a Blue Ribbon Panel recommendation clearly states that “the size of the new hospital should be appropriate to the planned service mix,” CPMC in its press releases has consistently referred to a 60-80 bed hospital, which is small for an urban hospital. That is what CPMC instructed their architects to design. Although it is roughly in line with the current census, it does not necessarily allow for the changes in the neighborhood population over the next several decades, nor does it take into account the services the Blue Ribbon Panel recommended. The intent of the Blue Ribbon Panel recommendation, on the other

CPMC appears determined to keep St. Luke’s Hospital small, and minimize its role in their overall plans.

hand, was to conduct an analysis of the number of beds the recommended services would require for the populations served in order to determine the size of the hospital.

CPMC appears determined to keep the hospital small and to minimize its role in their overall plans. St. Luke’s will now become part of CPMC’s revised Institutional Master Plan, which centers around the construction of a new, 555-bed hospital as part of a larger medical complex at Cathedral Hill on Van Ness Avenue. According to the plan, they would close acute care at the Pacific campus at Buchanan and Clay (the old Presbyterian Hospital), close the entire California campus (the old Children’s Hospital) and maintain neuroscience services at their Davies campus (the old Ralph K. Davies Hospital). The new Cathedral Hill Hospital would emphasize highly specialized care and high tech medicine.

We do have some leverage, however. There is little doubt the reason CPMC reversed its plan to close acute care at St. Luke’s and to form the Blue Ribbon Panel is they believed they would not gain the necessary political support for their new hospital otherwise. They were probably right.

But, the new Cathedral Hill Hospital still faces a rough road ahead. There will be significant zoning issues for a hospital

and medical complex of their proposed size. There will be neighborhood opposition, which has already been voiced by the Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Association. In fact, there is a strong possibility CPMC will not get their full 555-bed hospital, which gives us an opening. If the Cathedral Hill Hospital is smaller than proposed, then St. Luke’s could be larger than the 60-80 beds CPMC has been touting. As Supervisor Alioto-Pier suggested to CPMC management at one Blue Ribbon Panel meeting, they have one hospital where the community desperately wants it, they are proposing another one where some in the community will desperately fight against it, so why not read the politics and allocate the number of beds differently? Besides, given the uneven distribution of hospitals in the city, it is in the interest of the health care system in San Francisco as a whole to have more beds South of Market.

If we want to take advantage of that opening, however, we have to begin organizing now. We have to educate and win over new members of the Board of Supervisors. We have to work with neighbors in the Cathedral Hill area. We have to build a united front with other neighborhoods in our own area, including Bayview/Hunters Point, the Mission and the Excelsior. And we have to work with labor, St. Luke’s staff, and senior organizations, who are our allies in this campaign. The battle to make St. Luke’s a vital community resource in the spirit of the Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations will have to become an organizing campaign. The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center is poised for that campaign. ■

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REMEMBRANCES



Alice Gilbeaux

Born in Texas, raised in Oklahoma, Alice Gilbeaux, born Alice Parker, moved to San Francisco and built a life here with her husband, Jesse R. Gilbeaux and her children, Althea Marie, Michael Thomas, and Zina Alice.

Alice worked outside the home for several years then dedicated her life to supporting her family and her community. She was active in her church, served as an usher, a lector, President of the Women's Guild, choir member, volunteered in the rectory, and taught religious education to church youth., for which she was awarded the Pius X award for ten years of instruction. Alice also served as cashier at the annual church festivals, and

worked at the weekly bingo games.

An active part of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and Senior Program, Alice served on the board of directors, assisted in the Brown Bag program, worked at the bake sales as cashier, and remained an enthusiastic member of the seniors until the end. She helped where she could and tried to make things better, and her legacy is one of service and dedication.

She leaves to cherish her memories her daughters Althea Gilbeaux-Ramirez (Henry K. Ramirez) and Zina Justiniano; son Michael Thomas Gilbeaux (Hyo); sisters Vivian Parker and Faye Williams; brothers Charles Parker and Ralph Parker; grandchildren Leia Mills (Steven), Jessica Justiniano, Jason Gilbeaux, Heath K. Ramirez, Nicole Justiniano; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and many dear friends, all of whom will miss her terribly and treasure her memory always. ■

Ruby Lee Neal

Ms. Ruby Lee Neal was born on November 23, 1924 in Thornton, Mississippi to the proud parents Isabelle Smith-Neal and Arthur James Neal (also known as "Big Momma and Papa Arthur.") She was baptized at the age of 22, and was always a strong believer in Christ.

Coming to California in 1951 at the age of 27, Ruby worked as a housekeeper for many years. The mother of six and very family oriented, she took on the responsibility of raising her nephew. And although Ruby was handicapped, you would have never known considering she helped everyone in her family to the best of her ability. A strong woman that loved to smile, laugh and make jokes, Ruby had the ability to make you feel strong even when you felt weak. She was very direct and straight to the point. She loved her family and friends by expressing her love in every way possible.

She was preceded in death by her son Willie James; father Arthur James Neal; youngest son Cardell; mother Isabelle Smith; her aunts Nicie Bright and Bessie Jackson; oldest sister Martha Simmons; and oldest son Arthur Neal. She leaves to cherish her sister Leflora Townes; three daughters, Irene Dillard, Joanne Paul, and Linda Neal, and thirteen grandchildren—three of whom she loved deeply: Cedrick, Taurice, and Chrishara. Additionally, there are thirty-three great-grandchildren, five of whom to which she was very close—Mercedes, Cierra, Cherry, Anasia Simone, and Cedra—as well as four great-great-grandchildren (including Noyel and Myla), and a host of

nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends whom she loved dearly.

Ruby would always welcome anyone with open arms; she loved people with no hesitation. She was the strength of our family and the force that kept us together. She was the kind of blessing only God could give. We were so very blessed to have someone so loving in our lives. She was the grandmother you wish you had. She was the Sun that shined so bright, and the Moon that lit our lives. She was a beautiful person that will be loved forever, and never forgotten but truly missed forever. ■

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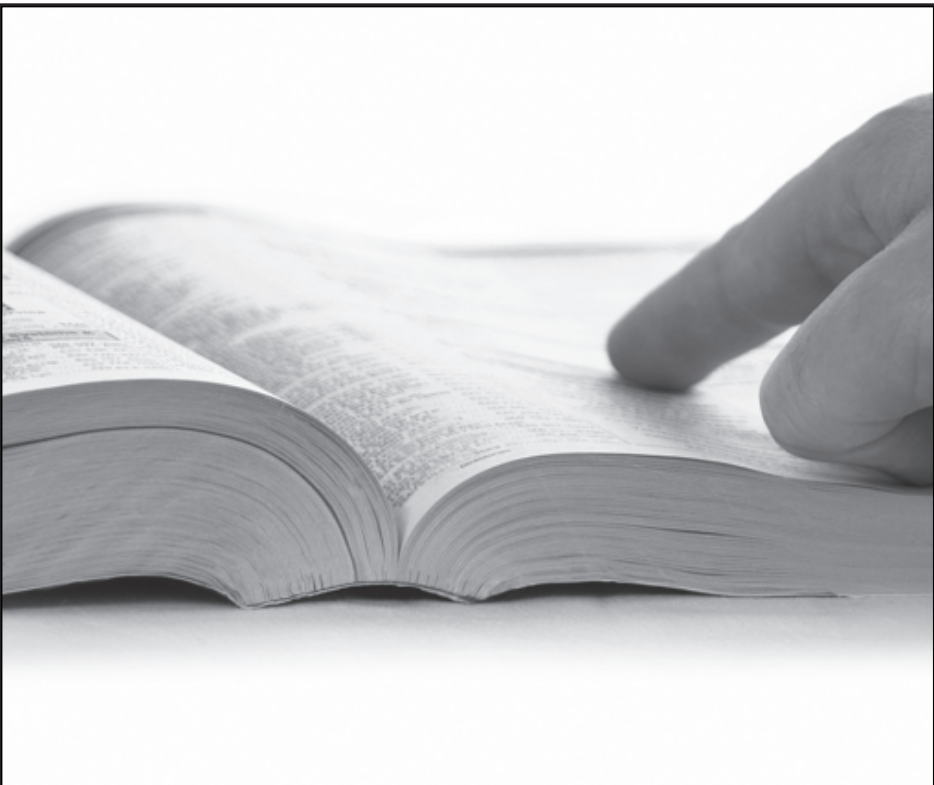
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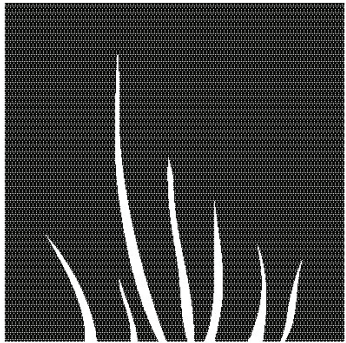
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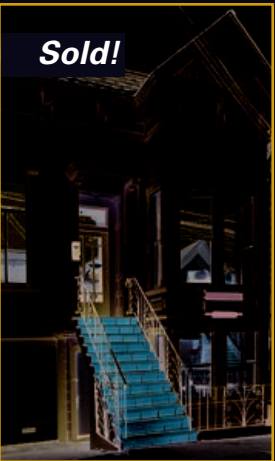
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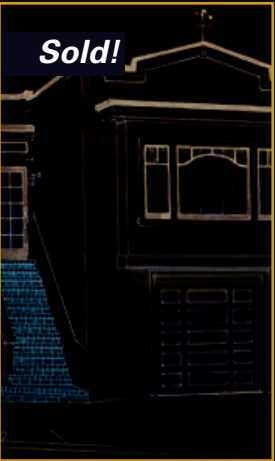
**853
Moultrie**



**168
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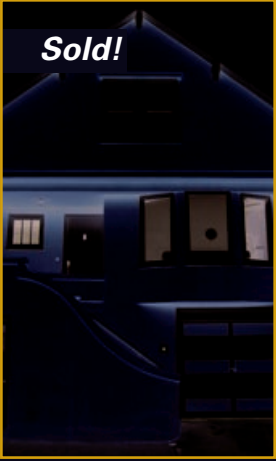
**230-236
Dorland**



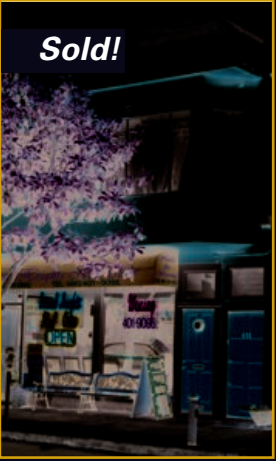
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